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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 159
By Williams

A RESOLUTION To designate the month of May, 2001, as "JAYS
Month."

WHEREAS, Despite the existence of state minimum age tobacco laws, the highest percentage of first cigarette usage occurs in the sixth and seventh grades, and the peak age for initiation of cigarette smoking is between the ages of 11 and 12; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce started its youth smoking prevention efforts with the We Card ID Program; Jaycees across the Nation asked retail clerks in convenience stores to sign pledges to card minors and not to sell them tobacco; the program was so successful, that, in 1997, the National Association of Convenience Stores adopted the program; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Jaycees then worked in conjunction with Oral Roberts University to develop Jaycees Against Youth Smoking (JAYS), a free education program that would go directly into the schools; and

WHEREAS, JAYS is designed to teach children in elementary and middle schools about the health risks of smoking and to help them make an informed decision not to smoke by:

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first, helping students identify the health risks of smoking; second, teaching students about environmental tobacco smoke; third, describing strategies for students to say “no”; and fourth, teaching students methods to help them quit, if they have already started, and how to help others quit; and

WHEREAS, The JAYS program is a well-conceived education tool, providing teaching guidelines and learning skits, and important health information about the dangers of smoking; the five day curriculum begins with a pre-test and a lesson on the health risks of smoking, which includes a science experiment; the second day consists of a discussion on the environmental risks of tobacco smoke, and a math project to calculate the cost of smoking; the third day starts with a sports activity, followed by seven strategies on saying no to peer pressure; the fourth day is devoted to how to quit smoking and how to help someone else quit; the fifth day concludes the program with an inspirational game, the JAYS Challenge; and

WHEREAS, Jaycees chapters across the country work diligently in recruiting schools to participate in this nationwide project; Jaycees members instruct teachers on the implementation of the program, order the preprinted materials from the National Service Center, provide the remaining project materials, and compile a final report; and

WHEREAS, Last year, the U.S. Jaycees positively impacted more than 100,000 children nationwide, and the Tennessee Jaycees were able to reach approximately 1,000 children; This year, the U.S. Jaycees hope to reach 500,000 children nationwide, and the Tennessee Jaycees’ state goal is to inform 25,000 children about the dangers of smoking; and

WHEREAS, The problem of underage smoking is of extreme significance to the elected officials of this State, and it is the duty of this legislative body to endorse those programs that address this serious problem and offer powerful solutions; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly recognizes the promise of the Jaycees Against Youth Smoking program and the positive impact it will have on the health and well-being of the children of this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, The State of Tennessee is proud to join forces with the Jaycees, Teachers, Principals, and Counselors to educate children about the dangers of smoking and to encourage the citizens of this great State to observe "JAYS Month"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby designate the entire month of May, 2001, as "JAYS Month" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we offer our gratitude to the members of the United States Jaycees and the Tennessee Jaycees for establishing and offering this important health education tool for use in our school systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.